



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ECCLESIASTES.*

The Book of Ecclesiastes may be called the most human of all the writings of Scripture. It not only portrays the thoughts and feelings of man, and assumes to give no direct divine revelation, but also gives the experience of one who had been a worldling and a doubter, and though at last arriving at the true solution of the problem of living, yet never entered into a high spiritual state of fellowship and communion with God. A successful commentary on this book must be written then in full sympathy with the struggling, doubting side of human nature. This Dr. Plumptre has done. Indeed, rejecting rightly the Solomonic authorship, he has boldly endeavored to give an ideal biography of the author. The Koheleth, the preacher or debater, as Dr. Plumptre prefers to call him, was born in Palestine about 230 B. C., the son of wealthy Jewish parents. In his own land he enjoyed all the advantages of Jewish education and training, not excepting labors in the cornfield and vineyard. But in early manhood he betook himself to Alexandria. There he passed his life, a courtier, a reveler, a lover, a philosopher or debater of the schools of the Epicureans and Stoics, a benefactor, until at last having tried and experienced all things, a weary, worn-out man he wrote the results of his experience, Ecclesiastes. No modern was more like him than Heinrich Heine; and Shakespere's sonnets and Tennyson's *Two Voices* give us the same lessons. This is Dr. Plumptre's view, and hence in addition to the simple explanation of the text he has brought together echoes of the same thoughts wherever found in ancient and modern literature. On a single verse we find quotations from Lucretius, Virgil, Horace and Shakespere. Three appendices are given to illustrate more fully than could be done in the commentary proper the parallelisms between the thoughts which have found expression in the writings of Shakespere, Tennyson and the Persian poet Omar Khayyam and those found in the Book of Ecclesiastes. For the reader who delights in such literary comparison, we know of no richer commentary of the same size.

But Ecclesiastes, though having so many points of contact with the writings mentioned, is not, according to Dr. Plumptre, without a place in the divine economy of Revelation. It is especially designed to meet certain tendencies of skeptical thought, and may become to those using it rightly a schoolmaster leading them to Christ.

We dissent from the late date to which Dr. Plumptre assigns the work, and think he errs in supposing that the writer must necessarily have been acquainted with the Greek literature of the third century B. C. The Koheleth may discuss the same peculiar problems as the Greek philosophers, but he does so in the distinctive Hebrew spirit of the Chokma literature. Yet we commend this commentary as the freshest and in the main the most helpful to the ordinary student on Ecclesiastes we have seen.

THE SCRIPTURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

The following announcement deserves special attention. G. P. Putnam's Son's (27 W. 23d St.) New York, are about to publish "The Scriptures, Hebrew and Christian, edited and arranged for Young Readers," prepared by Dean Bart-

* THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLE FOR SCHOOLS. General Editor J. J. S. Perowne, D. D. Ecclesiastes edited by E. H. Plumptre, D. D., Dean of Wells. Cambridge: *University Press*. Pp. 268.